

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-0224V

UNPUBLISHED

GEOFFREY GRIFFIS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: December 2, 2021

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

Anne Carrion Toale, Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA, Sarasota, FL, for Petitioner.

Voris Edward Johnson, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On February 8, 2019, Geoffrey Griffis filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine and hepatitis (“hep A”) vaccine that he received on January 30, 2018. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On January 24, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On December 2, 2021, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded a total of \$182,221.05, consisting of \$7,221.05 for unreimbursed past expenses and \$175,000.00 for pain and suffering. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with

¹ Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$182,221.05 (consisting of \$7,221.05 for unreimbursed past expenses and \$175,000.00 for pain and suffering), in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

On January 24, 2020, respondent, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, filed his Rule 4(c) Report conceding entitlement to compensation in this matter alleging the Table injury Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”) following an influenza vaccination. The same day, the Court entered its Ruling on Entitlement, finding petitioner Geoffrey Griffis entitled to Vaccine Act compensation. Respondent now proffers that petitioner receive a compensation award consisting of a lump sum payment of **\$182,221.05**, which includes \$7,221.05 for unreimbursed past expenses and \$175,000.00 for pain and suffering, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Geoffrey Griffis.¹ This amount represents compensation for all elements of compensation under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) to which petitioner is entitled.²

¹ Petitioner is a competent adult. No guardianship is required.

² Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering, and the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief.

³ This proffer does not include any award for attorneys' fees and costs that may be awarded pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e).

Respectfully submitted,

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